

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 INR-07 CIAE-00 /040 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:ECA:RWZIMMERMANN:LK

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

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R 252155Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239417

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, US

SUBJECT: CALL BY AMBASSADOR MUSICH ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SHLAUDEMAN

REF: 6149

1. AT HIS REQUEST, AMB. MUSICH CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN SEPT. 23 TO EXPRESS HIS REGRET AT LEAVING HIS WASHINGTON POST SO SOON AFTER ARRIVING. HE SAID HIS RESIGNATION WAS ENTIRELY FOR PRIVATE REASONS.
2. MUSICH WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WISHED TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING BY SETTING FORTH HIS VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA AND US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS. FIRST, HE SAID, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOA HAS CONCENTRATED ITS EFFORTS ON THE ELIMINATION OF GUERRILLAS WHO HAVE UNDERMINED THE WILL OF THE ARGENTINES TO WORK AND PROSPER IN PEACE. HE SAID HE SHARES THE GOVERNMENT'S CONVICTION THAT THIS IS THE FIRST PRIORITY. IN 160 DAYS OF FIRM ACTION THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE GREAT PROGRESS AND THE END OF TERRORISM IS APPROACHING ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY PRECISELY THAT THIS WOULD BE ACHIEVED IN FOUR, SIX OR TWELVE MONTHS.

3. SECOND, MUSICH STATED THAT HE IS QUITE CONVINCED

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THAT UNTIL THE GUERRILLAS ARE ELIMINATED IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO RESTORE PEACE AND RESPECT FOR LAW AND HENCE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE REAL ECONOMIC PROGRESS OR SOCIAL JUSTICE. PEACE AND RESPECT FOR LAW ARE ALSO PRE-REQUISITES FOR ARGENTINA TO BE ABLE TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

4. FINALLY, HE SAID, A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES REQUIRES A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE US OF THE EXCEPTIONAL CONDITIONS THAT EXIST IN ARGENTINA. IT IS A QUESTION OF GUERRILLAS AND NOT CIVIL WAR. HE ENDED HIS PRESENTATION BY ASSERTING THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK HARD FOR GOOD RELATIONS NOW AND WHEN HE BECOMES A PRIVATE CITIZEN ONCE MORE.

5. SHLAUDEMANN SAID WE UNDERSTOOD FULLY THE DIFFICULT SITUATION POSED BY THE GUERRILLA THREAT. WE WISH THE GOA WELL IN ITS EFFORTS TO CONTROL ARMED SUBVERSION AND RESTORE PEACE. WE HOPE TO CONTINUE COOPERATING ECONOMICALLY. IT IS A FACT, HOWEVER, THAT EXCESSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN HAVE FOCUSED CRITICAL ATTENTION ON ARGENTINA AND AROUSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN IN THIS COUNTRY AND THIS GOVERNMENT. SHLAUDEMANN THEN REVIEWED THE LEGISLATIVE ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM AND INFORMED MUSICH OF OUR DECISION TO VOTE FAVORABLY ON THE IDB LOAN. WE TOOK THAT DECISION IN LIGHT OF THE COMPLEX SITUATION IN ARGENTINA AND OUR RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT THE EXTENT OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXCESSES IS NOT CLEAR. BUT FUTURE VOTES WILL DEPEND ON THE GOA'S EFFORTS TO BRING ABUSES UNDER CONTROL. WE MUST CARRY OUT OUR LAW AND WILL THEREFORE BE LOOKING CLOSELY AT SUCH FACTORS AS CHARGES OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND OTHER EXCESSES.

6. MUSICH RESPONDED THAT HE SHARED MR. SHLAUDEMANN'S VIEWS; HE HAD SPOKEN WITH VIDELA, GUZZETTI AND MARTINEZ DE HOZ WHEN HE WAS BACK AND THEY ALSO SHARE THESE VIEWS. MUSICH THEN REMARKED THAT THERE IS A "GREY ZONE" WHERE DIFFICULTIES ARISE BUT SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC. FREQUENTLY GOA ACTION IN THIS AREA IS BASED ON PAST EVENTS

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AND THOSE CONCERNED MUST LEARN TO LOOK FORWARD. THE ERP IS QUITE DISMEMBERED NOW AND THAT ACHIEVEMENT WAS ONLY POSSIBLE WITH A MILITARY GOVERNMENT. THE SECOND STAGE IS TO BREAK UP THE MONTONEROS. THIS IS A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT PROBLEM BECAUSE IT IS A CONGLOMERATE ORGANIZATION WHOSE

IDEOLOGICAL VIEWPOINT IS DIFFICULT TO DEFINE. NEVERTHELESS THE GOVERNMENT IS HAVING SOME SUCCESS ALREADY. BUT

ONLY WHEN THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENTS ARE FINISHED CAN
ARGENTINA MOVE TO FACE THE NATION'S OTHER PROBLEMS.

7. MUSICH ENDED BY SAYING THAT HE IS PLANNING TO
LEAVE IN MID-OCTOBER. IN THE INTERIM THERE WILL BE
GUZZETTI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND ONE OR TWO ISSUES TO
DEAL WITH SUCH AS THE 747 FINANCING PROBLEM WITH EX-IM.
KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O
MR. MACFARLANE, 9/25/76.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE239417
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ECA:RWZIMMERMANN:LK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760363-0777
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760918/aaaaapsv.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL BY AMBASSADOR MUSICH ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN
TAGS: PFOR, AR, US
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006